

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05
SP-02 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 HA-05 /089 W
-----105018 240527Z /13

R 231335Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5979

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1347

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO ELAB PORG SZ
SUBJ: US RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ILO

REF: A) STATE 38223; B) BERN 1125; C) STATE 64501

1. POL/ECOUNS SENT AMB FRANCESCA POMETTA, FED
POLITICAL DEPT, IO AFFAIRS, "NON-PAPER" BASED ON
REFTEL A ON MAR 7. IN CALL ON HER MAR 22 WE DREW ON REFTELS
A AND C TO DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING US RELATIONSHIP.

2. SWISS HAVE NOT FORMULATED POSITION ON
STRUCTURAL REFORM ISSUE AS IT EMERGED FROM
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING. POMETTA THOUGH IT WAS
LIKELY TO BE LESS FIRM THAN WE WOULD PREFER. SHE
ASKED FOR ANY FURTHER COMMENTS WE MIGHT HAVE (LAST
SENTENCE PARA 3 REFTEL C) AS SOON AS THEY BECOME
AVAILABLE. WE STRESSED THAT WE WERE NOT CERTAIN
TO HAVE ANY, BUT WOULD MENTION HER REQUEST.

3. SWISS POSITION ON OTHER ILO ISSUES IS VIRTUALLY
IDENTICAL TO OURS. POMETTA EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE
ATTACHED BY SWITZERLAND TO US RETUR. SPEAKING
PERSONALLY, SHE SAID THAT SHE WOULD TRY TO HAVE
SWISS EMBASSIES IN G-77 AND OTHER COUNTRIES INSTRUCTED
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TO APPROACH HOST GOVTS AND URGE ACCEPTANCE OF US
POSITIONS IF THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL. SWISS WOULD
BE WILLING CONSULT NEW YORK, WASHINGTON OR BERN ON
HOW THEY COULD BE MOST HELPFUL. FACT ANY SUCH
COORDINATION TAKING PLACE WOULD HAVE TO BE KEPT
SECRET; OTHERWISE SWISS WOULD LOSE CREDITIBILITY
AND EFFORT WOULD BE WASTED.

4. SHE SAID SWISS DISCUSSION WITH DG BLANCHARD IN FEB WAS NOT ENCOURAGING. SHE HAS IMPRESSION ILO SECRETARIAT DID NOT TAKE US THREAT TO WITHDRAW SERIOUSLY ENOUGH AND HAS TENDED, SINCE WITHDRAWAL, TO CONCENTRATE TOO EXTENSIVELY ON EFFECTS ON BUDGET AND PERSONNEL AND TO GIVE TOO LITTLE ATTENTION TO REFORMS NECESSARY FOR US TO CONSIDER RETURNING. THERE IS, SHE SAID, A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF HOW DIFFICULT SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE, AND HOW MUCH MORE IMPORTANT US RETURN IS TO THE CONTINUATION OF A VIABLE INSTITUTION THAN HOW TO MEET THE NEXT PAYROLL. SWISS ARE CONVINCED THAT SOLVING BUDGETARY PROBLEM WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT. THEY HAVE AGREED TO GIVE \$100,000 EXTRA IN BUDGET SUPPORT AND TO DELAY SF 5,500,000 PAYMENT ON ILO MORTGAGE.

5. SWISS DISAPPOINTED COMMON SALARY SCALE NOT ADOPTED. HAS OFFERED SERVICES ITS LABOR DEPT IN HELPING ON RECLASSIFICATION AND FINDING NEW JOBS IF NECESSARY.
WARNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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